

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for linking business interests, comprising the steps of:

receiving postings of business ~~interests~~ venture items to a provider;

providing to a customer access to said postings via an agreement with the provider; and

linking said customer to said business ~~interests~~ venture items, wherein the business venture items are well suited to create new businesses when combined.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said business ~~interests~~ ventures consists of a group including, equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, material inventories, purchase agreements, product purchases, and investment capital.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of the customer negotiating the linked business ~~interests~~ venture items.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[3]]~~ 2, wherein the linking step consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of the customer providing item selection criteria to the provider by an order of hierarchy.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of the provider providing items indicated by the item selection criteria to the customer.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the provider ~~utilized~~ utilizes a computer system to implement the linking of business links venture items.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the computer system uses the internet in the form of a web portal.

9. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium for linking business interests to customers, the computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the computer-implemented steps of:

receiving postings of business ~~interests~~ venture items to a provider;

providing to a customer access to said postings via an agreement with the provider; and

linking said customer to said business ~~interests~~ venture items.

10. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 9, wherein said business interests consists of a group including, equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim ~~[[9]]~~ 10, further comprising the step of the customer negotiating the linked business interests.

12. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 11, wherein the linking step consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.

13. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 12, further comprising the step of the customer providing item selection criteria to the provider.

14. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 13, further comprising the step of the provider providing items indicated by the item selection criteria to the customer.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for linking business interests, comprising:

one or more processors; and

a memory communicatively coupled to the one or more processors, the memory including one or more sequences of one or more instructions which, when executed by the one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving postings of business ~~interests~~ venture items to a provider;

providing to a customer access to said postings via an agreement with the provider; and

linking said customer to said business ~~interests~~ venture items, wherein the business venture items are well suited to create new businesses when combined.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said business ~~interests~~ venture items consists of a group including, equipment, real estate, intellectual property, technical expertise, purchase agreements, material inventories, product purchases, and investment capital.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising the step of the customer negotiating the linked business ~~interests~~ venture items.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the linking step consists of the customer creating item selection criteria.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising the step of the customer providing item selection criteria to the provider.

20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 19, further comprising the step of the provider providing items indicated by the item selection criteria to the customer.